

# Retirement

## *Personnel officials explain myths, facts*

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center explain myths and facts of the Air Force's retirement programs.

**Myth:** All military members are under the same retirement plan.

**Fact:** Based on changes in law in 1980 and 1986, there are actually three retirement plans military members may now fall under. Individuals can determine which plan applies to them by using the date they initially entered military service.

For those who first entered military service prior to Sept. 8, 1980, they fall under the plan called "Final Basic Pay." For those who entered on or after Sept. 8, 1980 but before Aug. 1, 1986, they fall under the plan called "High 3." Individuals who first joined the military on or after Aug. 1, 1986 will have

their retired pay computed under the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986, or the MRRA.

A full description of each plan is outlined on the Personal Statement of Military Compensation Air Force members receive each year. Additional information on each retirement plan can be found on the World Wide Web at the following sites:

□ <http://www.afpc.af.mil/dppry/eomain.stm> offers the Air Force Personnel Center's retired pay calculator.

□ <http://136.149.142.85/dppry/TRRPay.htm> has information on initial entry military service dates.

□ <http://af3.dtic.mil/people/p7-ret.html> is the Air Force Issues page covering military retirement plans.

Individuals without personal Internet access should

contact the military personnel flight customer service section at Ext. 1847.

**Myth:** The retirement pay plan a member falls under is based on the date they completed basic training or were commissioned.

**Fact:** A member's Date of Initial Entry into Military Service, or DIEMS, determines which of the three existing retirement pay plans they fall under. It is the date that the member was first enlisted, inducted or appointed in a regular or Reserve component of any U.S. armed force as a commissioned officer, warrant officer or enlisted member.

It includes, but is not limited to: enlistment at a Military Entrance Processing Station; enlistment as a Reserve member in an ROTC program; enlistment in any active

component's Delayed Entry/Enlistment program; and entrance as a cadet or midshipman at a service academy, or if applicable, entry into an Academy Preparatory School.

**Bottom line:** The day you raised your hand and swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States for the first time is the date you became eligible for the retirement plan currently in effect. For example, a member who entered the Air Force Academy July 20, 1986, (and in doing so signed an enlistment contract and took the oath of enlistment), falls under the "High 3" plan even though he/she wasn't commissioned until May 28, 1990, four years later, when the new "MRRA" plan was in effect.

To verify DIEMS, call Ext. 1847.



Photo by TSgt. Brad Fallin

*Catch me if you can*

A 493rd Fighter Squadron F-15C tests the arrestment cable during a landing at RAF Mildenhall April 17. The cables are tested annually to make sure they are safe.